Australian Bureau of Statistics

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 22 September 1994

The week in statistics ...

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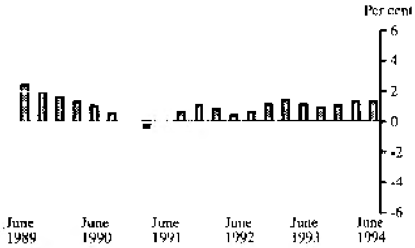
IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

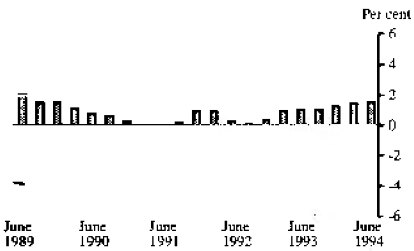
Western Australia is economic growth leader in June quarter

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

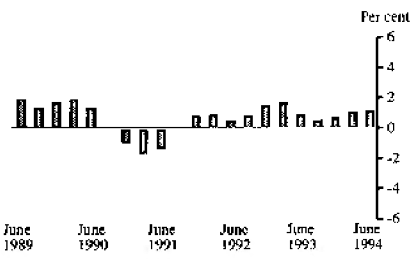
Australia



New South Wales



Victoria



Western Australia achieved the highest economic growth (3.1%) of all States in trend current price terms for the June quarter 1994.

Three other States and the Northern Territory grew at higher rates than the Australian growth rate of 1.5 per cent, with Tasmania up 2.2 per cent, New South Wales and Queensland both up 1.7 per cent, and the Northern Territory up 1.6 per cent. The remaining States and the Australian Capital Territory grew at a lower rate than the Australian average. All of these estimates relate to the income-based measure of gross State product.

Trend changes in the total production of each State (gross State product or GSP) and the total demand of each State's resident individuals, enterprises and government (State final demand or SFD), are examined in this article. GSP estimates are only available in current price terms, while the discussion of SFD is in terms of average 1989–90 prices.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
JUNE QUARTER 1994
Trend series
Percentage change

State/Territory	*From previous quarter*	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*
New South Wales	1.7	6.1
Victoria	1.3	3.9
Queensland	1.7	6.5
South Australia	1.3	5.1
Western Australia	3.1	8.9
Tasmania	2.2	5.1
Northern Territory	1.6	−0.4
Australian Capital Territory	0.6	3.0
Australia GDP(I)	*1.5*	*5.5*

New South Wales' GSP continued the increasing growth evident since the December quarter 1993, rising 1.7 per cent in the June quarter. Over the year to June, total growth was 6.1 per cent, exceeding the Australian rate of 5.5 per cent.

In Victoria, GSP growth strengthened in the June quarter to increase 1.3 per cent, contributing to an increase of 3.9 per cent over the year. The strengthening growth was fuelled partly by higher quarterly growth of wages, salaries and supplements.

Queensland's 1.7 per cent rise in GSP for the June quarter 1994 contributed to a growth rate over the year to June of 6.5 per cent, the second highest of all the States. Each of the three components of GSP, namely wages, salaries and supplements, gross operating surplus and net indirect taxes, grew in the June quarter. The growth rate over the year to June for each component was higher than the corresponding national rate.

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South Australia experienced a growth rate of 1.3 per cent in the June quarter 1994. Over the year to June, the rate of growth was 5.1 per cent, slightly below the national average of 5.5 per cent.

In Western Australia the strong June quarter growth contributed to an annual rate of 8.9 per cent. All three components grew strongly for the most part of 1993–94, to record the highest annual growth rate of all the States.

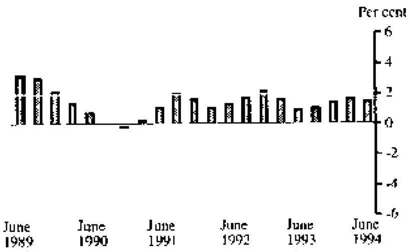
Tasmania's growth in the June quarter was 2.2 per cent, the second highest increase of all the States. Growth in GSP over the year to June was 5.1 per cent, with slower growth in the first two quarters than in the second half of 1993–94.

The Northern Territory experienced a recovery in the June quarter, with GSP increasing 1.6 per cent, marginally higher than the national increase of 1.5 per cent. Declines in GSP for the first two quarters of 1993–94 resulted in a fall of 0.4 per cent in GSP between the June quarter 1993 and the June quarter 1994.

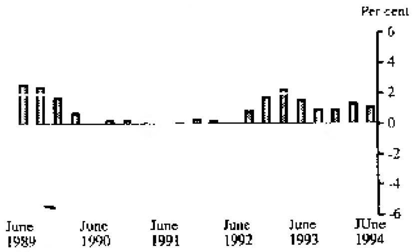
The Australian Capital Territory recorded increases in GSP of 0.6 per cent in both the March and June quarters 1994. A fall in wages, salaries and supplements contributed to the low growth rates in recent quarters.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

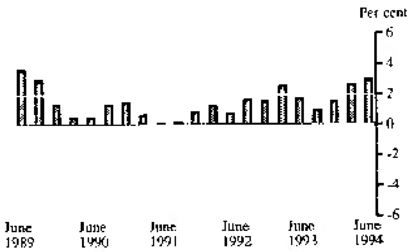
Queensland



South Australia



Western Australia



Western Australia also leads growth in State final demand

In the June quarter 1994, trend estimates of State final demand at average 1989–90 prices showed that New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia were the only States to achieve growth above the Australian rate of 1.4 per cent.

STATE FINAL DEMAND AT AVERAGE 1989–90 PRICES
JUNE QUARTER 1994
Trend series
Percentage change

State/Territory	*From previous quarter*	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*
New South Wales	1.7	5.1
Victoria	1.0	4.5
Queensland	1.7	4.2
South Australia	0.6	2.7
Western Australia	2.2	7.1
Tasmania	– 0.7	– 0.3
Northern Territory	– 0.4	6.2
Australian Capital Territory	0.4	1.0
Australia GDP(I)	*1.4*	*4.3*

New South Wales experienced SFD growth of 1.7 per cent with strong growth in private final consumption expenditure, government final consumption expenditure and private capital expenditure the major contributors to the increase.

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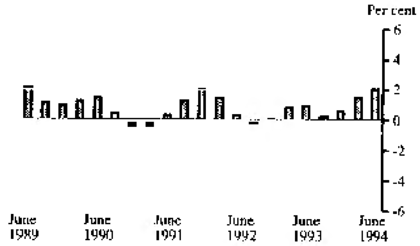
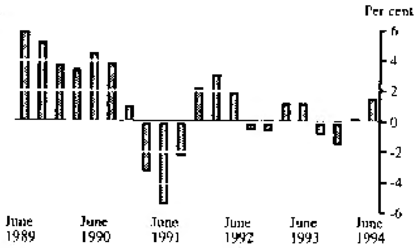
GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

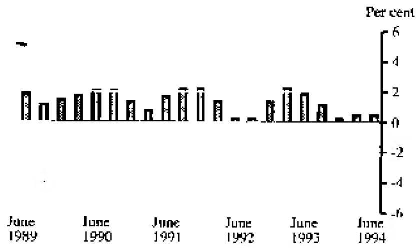
Tasmania



Northern Territory



Australian Capital Territory



Victoria's 1.0 per cent increase in SFD was fuelled by relatively strong growth in private final consumption expenditure of 1.4 per cent. Private investment on equipment continued to strengthen, increasing 4 per cent over the quarter to be 15.2 per cent above the June quarter 1993.

SFD for Queensland increased by 1.7 per cent, just above the Australian rate of 1.4 per cent. Contributing to the growth were rises in private final consumption expenditure (1.0%), private non-dwelling construction (2.5%), government consumption expenditure (1.8%) and public capital expenditure (6.7%).

In South Australia, private capital expenditure declined 2.4 per cent in the June quarter 1994, reaching its lowest level since the September quarter 1984. The poor performance of private investment constrained the overall growth rate of SFD to 0.6 per cent in the June quarter 1994.

Western Australia achieved the highest growth in SFD for the second successive quarter. Contributing strongly to the 2.2 per cent rise in the June quarter SFD was private capital expenditure, which increased 7.1 per cent, including an 11.8 per cent increase in private equipment expenditure.

Tasmania's SFD has declined for the last two quarters, with the June quarter falling 0.7 per cent. Tasmania is the only State to record a decline in the SFD growth rate (0.3%) between the June quarter 1993 and the June quarter 1994.

Despite a fall of 0.4 per cent in SFD in the June quarter, the Northern Territory recorded a strong 6.2 per cent rise in SFD over the year to June 1994. With private final consumption expenditure being flat and public final demand increasing 1.0 per cent in the June quarter 1994, a 5.8 per cent fall in private investment was the cause of the decline in SFD in the June quarter 1994.

In the June quarter 1994, SFD for the Australian Capital Territory increased 0.4 per cent. Primarily, the low increase was due to falls in private final consumption expenditure (0.5%) and private investment, which declined for the fifth consecutive quarter and is now 13.4 per cent lower than in the June quarter 1993.

For further information, order the publication Australian National Accounts, State Accounts *(5242.0), or contact Dharshi Ganeson on (06) 252 7188 for current price estimates, or Jo Jackson on (06) 252 6708 for constant price estimates.*

Export prices turn upwards

The export price index increased by 0.9 per cent in July 1994.

Major contributors to the increase in July were higher wool prices following continuing increases in wool auction prices, and wheat, reflecting stronger demand in several markets. Stronger world prices resulted in price increases for raw sugar.

These increases were partly offset by price falls for beef, reflecting oversupply in the US and Japanese markets.

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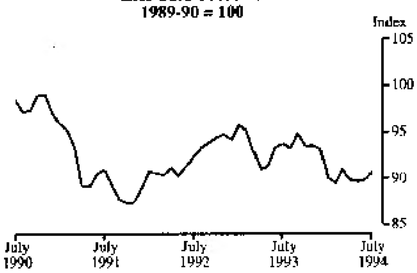
EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



Between July 1993 and July 1994 the export price index decreased by 3.3 per cent.

Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, JULY 1994
Percentage change

Commodity group	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*
Wool and cotton fibres	5.5	30.0
Base metals	1.8	7.2
Machinery and appliances	0.1	−0.7
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	−0.5	−2.0
Prepared food stuffs	4.2	−2.3
Live animals and animal products	−1.2	−2.6
Gold, diamonds and coin	−0.2	−9.3
Products of chemicals and allied industries	0.5	−10.6
Mineral products	−0.1	−11.4
Vegetable products	2.0	−14.2
All groups	*0.9*	−3.3

For further information, order the publication Export Price Index, Australia *(6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.*

Finance in brief ...

❒ **Personal finance**

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for July 1994 was $2,155.7 million, a decrease of $24.5 million (1.1%) on June 1994 but an increase of $360.5 million (20.1%) on July 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments for July 1994 were $2,157.2 million, an increase of $11.6 million (0.5%) on June 1994 and an increase of $514.8 million (31.4%) on July 1993.

❒ **Commercial finance**

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for July 1994 was $8,463.6 million, an increase of $30.4 million (0.4%) on June 1994 and an increase of $1,062.7 million (14.4%) on July 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, commercial finance commitments for July 1994 were $8,303.8 million, a decrease of $167.8 million (2.0%) on June 1994 and an increase of $1,269.9 million (18.1%) on July 1993.

❒ **Lease finance**

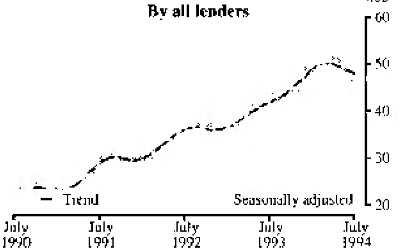
The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for July 1994 was $571.9 million, an increase of $12.8 million (2.3%) on June 1994 and an increase of $128.7 million (29.0%) on July 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments for July 1994 were $570.9 million, an increase of $1.2 million (0.2%) on June 1994 and an increase of $122.1 million (27.2%) on July 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. Fo

Housing finance now appears to have peaked in March

NUMBER OF HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



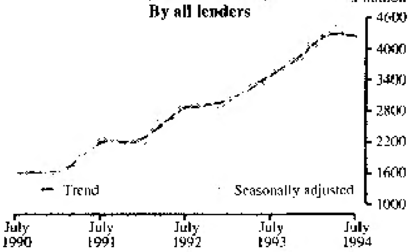
The rate of growth in the trend estimate of the number of dwellings financed slowed in January and February 1994 before reaching a turning point in March and going into decline from April. The revised provisional trend estimates for April, May and June 1994 show declines of 0.7 per cent, 1.2 per cent and 1.5 per cent, respectively with the provisional trend estimate for July 1994 falling by 1.2 per cent on June 1994.

The trend estimates in July of the number of dwellings for the categories 'construction of dwellings', 'purchase of new dwellings' and 'purchase of established dwellings' fell by 0.1 per cent, 3.0 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively on June 1994. The revised trend estimates for June for these categories were: construction – 0.7 per cent, new dwellings – 3.0 per cent and established – 1.6 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE, JULY 1994
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS

	Established dwellings	*Construction of dwellings*	*Newly erected dwellings*	*Total*
% change from June 1994				
Trend	– 1.3	– 0.1	– 3.0	– 1.2
Seasonally adjusted	1.5	4.1	– 5.1	1.7
Original	– 13.2	– 9.2	– 7.9	– 12.1
% change from July 1993				
Trend	13.1	15.0	17.3	13.7
Seasonally adjusted	6.7	8.8	11.0	7.3
Original	4.5	8.3	8.9	5.5

VALUE OF HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



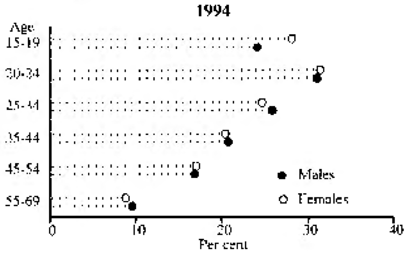
In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of dwelling units financed in July increased by 1.7 per cent on June, and was 7.3 per cent higher than the July 1993 figure. The categories 'construction of dwellings', and 'purchase of established dwellings' for July 1994 were up 4.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent, respectively on July 1994. The category 'purchase of new dwellings' was down 5.1 per cent on June. The unadjusted number of dwelling units financed in July was down 12.1 per cent on June 1994 but 5.5 per cent higher than in July 1993.

Refinancing accounted for 13.4 per cent of the total dwellings financed in July 1994 in unadjusted terms, down slightly from 13.6 per cent last month.

For further information, order the publication Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia *(5609.0), or contact Ron Manson on (02) 268 4784.*

More people changing jobs

JOB MOBILITY OF PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 1994



The proportion of workers who were job mobile, that is, changed their employer/business or locality over a one year period, increased to 22 per cent during the year ending February 1994 from 20 per cent in the year ending February 1992. The figure represents a return to the levels of mobility recorded in 1990 and 1991. Before 1990, labour mobility was steadily increasing, from 14 per cent in 1984.

Of persons experiencing job mobility in the 12 months to February 1994, 85 per cent changed their employer/business and 15 per cent changed their location only. Other findings from the labour mobility survey include:

- job mobility was similar for females (23%) and males (22%);
- job mobility was highest for both sexes in the 20–24 age group (31%);
- job mobility increased with education level and peaked at 29 per cent for persons with a higher degree; and
- high mobility rates were recorded for unmarried persons, particularly those who were not members of a family but not living alone.

These patterns are similar to earlier years.

Of the 8.6 million persons who worked at some time in the 12 months to February 1994, 1.9 million had ceased a job during the year. While this number was higher than the 1.8 million reported in February 1992, the following table shows that the increase was largely due to a rise in the number of persons who voluntarily left a job.

PERSONS WHO CEASED A JOB DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY

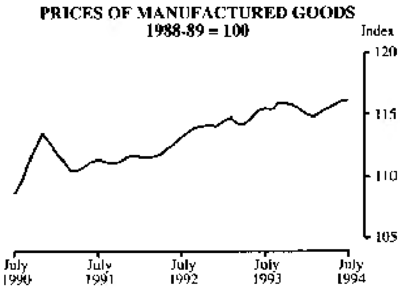
Reason for ceasing last job	February 1992 '000	February 1992 Per cent	February 1994 '000	February 1994 Per cent
Job loser	810.5	44	753.0	39
Retrenched	547.5	30	464.3	24
Other reasons	263.1	14	288.7	15
Job leaver	1 021.7	56	1 158.6	61
Total	*1 832.3*	*100*	*1 911.5*	*100*

Of the 1,070,000 persons working in February 1994 who had started the job during the year and had a previous job:

- 36 per cent changed industry from previous to current job; and
- 30 per cent changed occupation from previous to current job.

For further information, order the publication Labour Mobility, Australia *(6209.0), or contact Jon Havelock on 252 6661.*

Marginal increase in prices of manufactured goods



The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry increased by 0.1 per cent in July 1994.

The increase in July was largely due to stronger world prices resulting in higher prices for exported sugar and base metals.

These increases were offset by price decreases for exported beef, reflecting oversupply in the US and Japanese markets, and a reduction in refined petroleum prices as a result of falls in the Prices Surveillance Authority maximum endorsed prices.

The Manufacturing Division index increased by 0.6 per cent between July 1993 and July 1994.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JULY 1994
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*
Food and beverages	−0.1	0.8
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.6
Chemical products	0.0	0.1
Petroleum products	−1.3	−8.6
Basic metal products	0.7	−0.2
Fabricated metal products	−0.3	−0.6
Transport equipment	0.5	2.0
Other industrial machinery	0.0	0.5
Total manufacturing	*0.1*	*0.6*

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia *(6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.*

House prices rise again

Established house prices in Australia rose 1.2 per cent between the March and June quarters 1994. Falls in Perth (1.2%) and Canberra (0.8%) partially offset rises in other capital cities (ranging from 0.7% in Adelaide to 5.0% in Darwin). Prices remained unchanged in Brisbane.

In the year to the June quarter 1994, prices for established houses in Australia rose by 3.4 per cent. Price rises were recorded in six capital cities for this period ranging from 2.3 per cent in Brisbane to 13.5 per cent in Darwin. A fall of 5.0 per cent was recorded for Adelaide and there was no change in prices for Canberra.

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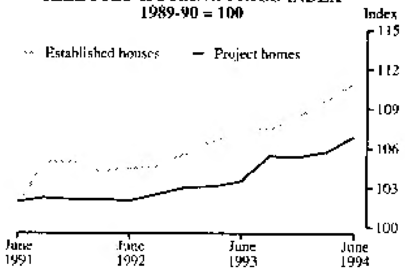
SELECTED HOUSING PRICE INDEX
1989-90 = 100



Project home prices in Australia increased by 1.1 per cent between the March and June quarters 1994. Increases were reported in six capital cities ranging from 0.2 per cent in Darwin to 2.7 per cent in Perth. Prices fell 0.3 per cent in Adelaide and Canberra.

HOUSING PRICES, JUNE QUARTER 1994
Percentage change

	Established houses		*Project homes*	
	From previous quarter	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*	*From previous quarter*	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*
Sydney	1.9	4.8	0.7	2.4
Melbourne	1.6	2.7	1.8	4.6
Brisbane	0.0	2.3	0.7	1.3
Adelaide	0.7	– 5.0	– 0.3	5.9
Perth	– 1.2	7.2	2.7	5.3
Hobart	2.4	6.1	1.4	2.7
Darwin	5.0	13.5	0.2	8.5
Canberra	– 0.8	0.0	– 0.3	– 0.7
Weighted average of eight capital cities	*1.2*	*3.4*	*1.1*	*3.3*

For further information, order the publication House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities *(6416.0), or contact Alison Yardley on (06) 252 5263.*

In brief ...

❒ **Wine exports**

A total of 9.9 million litres of wine was exported from Australia in June 1994, with a value of $30.7 million. In terms of volume, exports were 5.5 per cent less than for May 1994 and 14.5 per cent less than for June 1993.

Exports for the 1993–94 financial year exceeded the 100 million litre mark for the second consecutive year with 124.1 million litres valued at $364.9 million exported. This represents an increase of 20.7 per cent in the volume and 24.5 per cent in the value of exports when compared with 1992–93. Exports of table wine (making up nearly 93% of all wine exports) increased by 19.9 million litres, or 20.8 per cent. Sparkling wine exports increased by 6.2 per cent and exports of other wine increased by 13.9 per cent. Fortified wine exports reversed last years sharp fall with a 55.2 per cent increase over the 1992–93 quantity.

Exports to the north-east Asia region during 1993–94 increased by 51.1 per cent, the largest percentage increase of any region. All regions recorded a rise in exports, with the more significant increases being Oceania (36.7%), Europe (17.0%), Middle East (14.6%) and North America (12.8%). Europe still receives the largest share of Australia's wine exports in terms of volume, with 58.1 per cent of total exports, followed by Oceania (20.1%) and North America (14.9%).

The United Kingdom received 47.1 million litres of Australian wine in 1993–94 and together with Sweden's 15.3 million litres they represent 86.6 per cent of exports to the European region. New Zealand received 23.3 million litres, 93.5 per cent of wine exports to the Oceania region. The North American export market is comprised of the United States of America, 11.5 million litres, and Canada with 6.9 million litres. These countries represent the top five export destinations for Australian wine.

Source: Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, July 1994 (8504.0).

❐ **Industrial disputes**

In June 1994 there were 47 disputes involving 7,200 employees and the loss of 28,400 working days.

This represents a 56 per cent decrease from the previous month in the number of employees involved, and an 8 per cent decrease in the number of disputes. The number of working days lost increased by 21 per cent from the previous month.

The coal mining industry reported 10,700 working days lost, an increase of 8,300 days from the 2,400 reported in May 1994. This industry accounted for 38 per cent of total working days lost in Australia during the month.

In the 12 months ended June 1994 there were 541 disputes reported involving 316,200 employees and the loss of 530,900 working days. This is a 68 per cent decrease in total employees involved from the 12 months ended June 1993 and a 48 per cent decrease in the number of working days lost in the same period.

Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia, June 1994 (6321.0).

❐ **Award rates of pay**

Over the 12 months to July 1994, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 1.1 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 1.1 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult females and males occurred in the recreation, personal and other services industry (2.7% and 2.3%, respectively), and in the wholesale and retail trade industry (2.3% and 2.5%, respectively).

In terms of occupation groups, the largest increases for full-time adult females were for plant and machine operators, and drivers (2.0%), and for tradespersons (1.8%). For full-time adult males the largest increases were for salespersons and personal service workers (1.8%), and for labourers and related workers (1.4%).

Source: Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, July 1994 (6312.0).

❐ **State demographics**

For the twelve months ending 31 March 1994 the population growth rates of only Queensland (2.6%) and Western Australia (1.4%) were above the national average of 1.0 per cent. Growth rates well below the national average occurred in Tasmania (0.2%), Victoria (0.2%) and South Australia (0.5%).

During the March quarter 1994 Queensland gained 14,100 persons from interstate migration, a 20 per cent fall from the March quarter 1993 (17,500). The only other State to show net gain during the March quarter 1994 was Western Australia which gained 1,000 compared to a loss of 1,300 during the corresponding quarter in 1993. The net loss from Victoria (9,400) was an increase of 8 per cent over the March quarter 1993 (8,700).

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The net interstate migration loss from South Australia during the March quarter 1994 (1,300) was 34 per cent lower than the record loss for the March quarter 1993 (1,900), while the Australian Capital Territory had a net loss of 200 persons in the March quarter 1994 compared with the 1,500 net gain for the March quarter 1993.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, March Quarter 1994 (3101.0).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over fortnight to 4 October

21 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, August 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; $12.00)

22 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, July 1994 (6411.0; $11.00)

Import Price Index, Australia, July 1994 (6414.0; $8.50)

23 Retail Trade, Australia, July 1994 (8501.0; $11.00)

26 Manufacturing Production, Australia, August 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; $11.00)

29 Balance of Payments, Australia, August 1994 (5301.0; $16.50)

Building Approvals, Australia, August 1994 (8731.0; $13.50)

Selected releases: 14 to 20 September

General

Economic Indicators, Qld, September 1994 (1307.3; $6.50)

Australian Capital Territory Business Indicators, September 1994 (1303.8; $7.50)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, ACT, June 1993 (3207.8; $25.00)

Social statistics

Court Statistics, Tas., 1993 (4508.6; $11.50)

Agriculture

Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Aust., 1994–95, Preliminary (7210.0; $10.70)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, April to June 1994 (8358.0; $11.00)

Retail Industry: Commodity Sales, Aust., 1991–92 (8624.0; $30.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, June 1994 (8741.1; $11.00)

Manufacturing Industry, Vic., 1991–92 (8221.2; $16.50)

Tourist Accommodation, Vic., June Qtr 1994 (8635.2; $25.00)

Building Approvals, Vic., July 1994 (8731.2; $11.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Qld, June Qtr 1994 (8635.3; $25.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Tas., June Qtr 1994 (8635.6; $25.00)

Building Approvals, Tas., July 1994 (8731.6; $8.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, July 1994 (9303.5;

The latest — consolidated to 20 September 1994

Key national indicators

	Period	Units	Latest figure available: Original	Latest figure available: Seasonally adjusted	Percentage change (a) on: Previous period	Percentage change (a) on: Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989–90 prices	June qtr 94	$m	99 058	100 666	0.9	4.3
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	July 94	$m	– 1 926	– 1 841	– 21	– 62
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	– 470	– 476	—	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	– 724	– 565	—	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 388	5 217	– 3	– 2
Merchandise imports	"	"	– 5 858	– 5 693	3	9
Net foreign debt	June qtr 94	$m	161 524	n.a.	– 1.9	– 4.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	232 698	n.a.	– 0.2	5.2
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	June 94	$m	8 392	8 616	– 0.1	5.7
New capital expenditure at current prices	June qtr 94	"	7 284	6 994	7	11.0
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	July 94	no.	51 928	52 028	– 0.2	18.2
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989–90 prices	March qtr 94	$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	July 94	no.	15 312	15 338	– 5.1	1.5
Building approvals	"	$m	2 151.8	2 298.7	– 17.2	9.2
Building work done at 1989–90 prices	March qtr 94	"	5 783	6 236	– 2.4	—
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 94	1989–90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	July 94	1988–89 = 100.0	116.2	n.a.	0.1	0.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries (e)	June 94	1984–85 = 100.0	124.0	n.a.	0.6	– 2.5
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	August 94	'000	7 885.7	7 934.2	– 0.5	3.5
Participation rate †	"	%	62.2	62.8	– 0.4	0.3
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.2	9.5	0.0	– 1.6
Job vacancies	May qtr 94	'000	49.4	53.0	18.5	64.1
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.31	1.33	7.5	11.1
Estimated resident population	March 94	million	17.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	April 94	'000	255	271	– 10.6	12.1
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 94	$m	5 410	6 115	– 2.5	33.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May 94	$	617.50	618.20	1.4	3.3
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	July 94	% per annum	5.40	n.a.	– 0.05	0.45
10-year Treasury bonds †	July 94	"	9.55	n.a.	– 0.1	2.65
Exchange rate — $US (c)	July 94	per $A	0.7349	n.a.	0.2	8

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) *Source*: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 21 September 1994.
(e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 22 September 1994.
NOTES: ÷ = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators

	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year: NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	March qtr 94	– 4.3	8.6	30.1	– 14.6	– 16.2	– 41.0	n.a.	n.a.	0.2
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	June 94	7.1	5.1	6.7	3.8	5.9	4.7	n.a.	2.4	5.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	July 94	21.2	11.0	31.7	11.1	11.3	19.7	9.7	– 12.0	18.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	July 94	0.3	7.7	– 1.2	– 14.7	6.2	– 5.4	– 51.7	– 24.6	1.5
Value of total building work done	March qtr 94	– 8.2	5.6	4.6	0.7	20.6	4.6	20.3	– 4.7	1.4
Employed persons*	August 94	3.5	2.5	5.9	1.9	4.2	1.0	2.2	2.0	3.5
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 94	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May 94	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.8	3.0	3.2	1.2	2.6	3.5
Population	March qtr 93	0.8	0.2	2.6	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	March qtr 94	7.3	5.4	6.3	5.4	9.5	3.9	16.6	1.5	6.7

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.
Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

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